

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01733 111136Z
ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 /039 W
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R 111105Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6210
USCUSTOMS SERVICE WASHDC

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 1733

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, TC
SUBJ: US CUSTOMS INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL TRAINING FOR
ABU DHABI

REF: A) CUSTOMS 3442 (DTG 011331Z JUN 77)
(B) CUSTOMS 3568 (DTG 061522Z JUN 77), (C) STATE 106407,
(D) ABU DHABI 1553

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

1. AS INDICATED IN REF D, RAMADAN FOLLOWED BY IID-AL-FITR
PRECLUDES HAVING CUSTOMS TRAINING IN UAE LATE AUGUST
AND SEPTEMBER. SINCE RECEIVING REF B, WE HAVE AGAIN GONE
BACK TO CUSTOMS DIRECTOR HERE TO SEE IF TRAINING COULD BE
SCHEDULED EARLIER. DIRECTOR HAS ADVISED OCT 15 IS
EARLIEST DATE TRAINING CAN BEGIN BECAUSE OF RAMADAN AND THE
HOLIDAYS THAT FOLLOW AND BECAUSE CUSTOMS NEEDS SEVERAL WEEKS
TO CLEAR UP BACKLOG THAT OCCURS IN POST-RAMADAN PERIOD.
THEREFORE, THERE APPEARS NO WAY CUSTOMS TRAINING CAN BE
ACCOMPLISHED PRIOR TO END OF US FY 77.

2. WE HAVE ALREADY GONE FAR DOWN ROAD WITH UAE CUSTOMS
OFFICIALS IN WORKING OUT TRAINING PROGRAM. WHEN FLETCHER
POTTER AND HAROLD BARBAGELLATA WERE IN ABU DHABI LAST
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APRIL, THEY PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL
TRAINING WITH CUSTOMS DIRECTOR GENERAL WHICH WAS WEL-
COMED. WHILE FUNDING WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED,
ABU DHABI CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WERE CLEARLY UNDER IMPRES-
SION THAT USG WOULD FUND AT LEAST INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
COSTS AND SHIPMENT OF TRAINING MATERIAL. SUBSEQUENTLY,
PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED PARA 9, REF C, WE

INFORMED UAE CUSTOMS THAT UAEG SHOULD PROVIDE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR TRAINING TEAM BUT THAT INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL WOULD FUND ALL OTHER COSTS INCLUDING PER DIEM. IN BRIEF, UAEG CUSTOMS ARE UNDER IMPRESSION THAT USG PREPARED TO FUND PART OF COSTS AND HAVE WELCOMED THIS COOPERATIVE APPROACH.

3. I AM CONCERNED THAT HAVING GONE THIS FAR, UAE CUSTOMS WILL SEE US AS RENEGING ON THE OFFER MADE EARLIER BECUASE OUR BUREAUKRATIC PROCEDURES PRECLUDE OUR FUNDING ANY COSTS,EITHER TRAVEL OR PER DIEM IN US FY78. SINCE THIS PROGRAM WILL NOT ONLY BE FOR UAE BUT WILL INCLUDE PARTICIPATION BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS FROM QATAR AND BAHRAIN AND SHOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT TO USG IN ITS EFFORTS TO ASSURE BETTER INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL, I WOULD HOPE WE COULD FIND A WAY AROUND THISPROBLEM OR FIND ALTERNATIVE FUNDING.

4. SINCE WE ARE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT UAE TRAINING PROGRAM CAN COMMENCE OCT 15 AND THAT UAE CUSTOMS HAS AUTHORIZATION TO FUND ALL LOCAL COSTS (HOTEL, BOARD, LOCAL TRANSPORTATION, ETC), COULD WE NOT AT VERY LEAST OBLIGATE FUNDS TO PAY FOR ROUND TRIP TRAVEL OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS TO ABU DHABI PRIOR TO END OF US FY77?
PLEASE ADVISE.
DICKMAN

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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